

Voluntary Health Council examines health needs

Health Minister Frank S. Miller was guest speaker at the inaugural dinner of the Halton district health council in Burlington last Wednesday. Terry Baines of Georgetown is chairman of the council.

Miller told reporters that whereas a health unit delivers specific health care, the health council's purpose is to look at health needs in an area, establish priorities and advise the minister.

Other than an executive director and a secretary who are paid, the rest of the council are volunteers such as doctors, politicians and interested citizens.

There are too many hospital beds in Ontario now, he said.

Miller in response to questions from reporters said the ministry of health is appealing a court decision which means that as minister of health he does not have the right to close hospitals. Miller believes that a health minister ought to have that right.

The health councils can report directly to the ministry or through regional councils but so far no regional council had exercised that option, he said.

Among the priorities for the health councils in the upcoming year is the develop-

ment of an organizational structure that will relate to all health and allied social services within Halton and an inventory of all health care facilities and services, including volunteer agencies, Miller said.

The provincial government has appointed three Halton politicians to the health council. They are Pat McKenzie of Acton, Mayor Harry Barrett of Oakville and Dave Coons of Burlington.



YOUTH APPRECIATION

Optimist Club President Al Axford, left, has purchased toys for Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital and a wheelchair for the Red Cross Loan cupboard, held by the club last week. The youth group Optimist Larry Ciglen present awards to Debbie Wilson of the Red Cross Youth during a special youth appreciation night

Developers offer to pay for sewage plant repair

Some planning board members noted Tuesday that entering into the contractual agreement with two developers to pay for repairs to the John Street pumping station could imply approval of building permits.

Willing to share the \$11,000 cost for improvements are Ted Bellman of Krunkite Developments and Murray Gruson of Garthdale Development.

Mr. Bellman's proposed housing project has not received approval but assistant town planner Ron Burnett said he "volunteered" to contribute \$6,000 on a pro-rated basis to reimburse the region.

"If we accept Bellman's money," said Coun. Roy Booth "it's like we're saying, 'yes, we approve of your proposal.'"

"No, it doesn't mean we will recommend his project," said town planner Mario Venditti.

He explained that "minor improvements" to the pumping station are "of immediate concern" to accommodate housing and if developers don't pick up the bill the town of Halton Hills will have to.

Committee reviews benefits for non-teaching board staff

An ad hoc committee established in 1969 succeeded in having its terms of reference changed by the Halton board of Education, Wednesday.

And at the same time the board approved a wording change in its policy on sick leave and retirement benefits

without discussion but some trustees criticized the committee's terms of reference recommendations that might turn it into a standing one.

The committee's new terms of reference are to review and make recommendations regarding non-teaching staff, salary classifications, benefit plans and to serve as the board's committee under the terms of the collective agreements with unions representing non-teaching personnel.

In 1969 when the original terms of reference were laid down, the committee's duties were to review terms of employment, tenure, job descriptions, procedural matters relating to employment, and recommend salary schedules.

Membership of the committee, effective Jan. 1, 1977, will be six trustees, three of whom will be members of the salary committee for teaching staff, and three board officials.

The main work of the committee would be to review 31 job classifications.

It was not the intent of the committee to be on-going, Trustee Bill Herd told the board. But the committee discovered that its work had become so refined all it was doing was reviewing salary ranges, he said.

"To be a meaningful committee, we should undertake a review of these issues," Herd said.

He said that trustees who served both on the ad hoc committee and the teacher salary committee would not find it impossible to do their work, in reply to criticism from trustee Fred Armitage who pointed out that "ad hoc committees usually have a time limit"

Health councils "are not going to work wonders right off the bat," Miller said. He described the councils as "a non-system to help systematize the system."

In a prepared statement, Miller said, "district health councils are one concrete way in which the provincial government is attempting to decentralize planning to ensure that local considerations receive full and complete attention."

The councils "hold the key to local development and the necessary reorganization of community health services," he said, but added that they "aren't running anything."

Their function is to examine health care requirements in the area and advise the ministry.

By the year's end there will be a total of 18 health councils in Ontario. They will cost about \$50,000 each to operate over and above the volunteers. "That's pretty low cost advice," he said.

"I'm not bothered if they don't work at first," Miller said. "We're prepared to try and develop them to work."

"Hopefully they'll find ways to save me money," Miller said. "There are lots of ways to save money."

He said that two key spheres the health councils were to examine are mental health and medical laboratory services.

"In the mental health segment, the ministry of health is concentrating more resources on the development of out-patient services, while in the laboratory field we are encouraging maximum use of existing facilities within hospitals," he said.

Miller said he would have liked to have had the health councils recommend hospital closures, "but I didn't want them to start off with a dirty

Local teacher at conference

Tom Ramataursingh of Georgetown led a discussion on centralization and decentralization at the Ontario Association for Curricular Esquising WI visits local plant

Development's 25th conference last weekend.

Mr. Ramataursingh said the crowds of parents, students teachers and ministry representatives gathered at Toronto's King Edward Hotel for the three-day event gave Education Minister Tom Wells a "great ovation" when he described the return to a centralized curriculum stressing achievement in core subjects.

A member of the OACD advisory council for the past two years, Mr. Ramataursingh also chaired a major session. It featured addresses by Ontario assistant deputy minister of education, Harry Fisher, director of education Eric Runarres, teacher Paul Collins, principal Bill Lambie, superintendent Dr. Madeline Hardy and deputy minister of education for New Brunswick Mr. P. J. Harvey.

Serving on the discussion group panel with him were superintendents for the Durham and London boards of education Dr. Charles Elliot and Roger Macaulay.

Mr. Ramataursingh is president of Holy Cross School Parent Association.

Esquising Women's Institute members met Thursday evening for their regular meeting, and visited the D.R.G. Stationery Plant in Georgetown, where they were met by Mr. John McDonald Personnel Manager, who explained the work and the machines and conducted the ladies on a plant tour.

Following this they proceeded to the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. Godden and continued with the business of the meeting.

Members were pleased with a letter read from Mrs. Walsh Miller of Cornwall, a member and former secretary of the group, who described their new home and sent warm regards to all from herself and her mother Mrs. Iris Howell.

Mrs. H. Clare assisted the hostess with lunch.

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An open invitation

Manager Noel Lewis and his friendly staff will be moving on November 24th into their brand-new quarters in Georgetown, at the Royal Bank's new Guelph and Mountainview branch. To celebrate the occasion, they're holding an Open House on Wednesday, November 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. And, in addition, anyone visiting the branch between November 24th and December 20th is automatically entered in a draw on December 20th for one girl's and one boy's 10 speed bikes. So drop by and draw on December 20th for coffee and donuts. If you can't make the Open House, stop in anytime during regular business hours - Mondays through Wednesdays from 10:00 to 4:00, Thursdays from 10:00 to 8:00, and Fridays from 10:00 to 6:00. When you do visit, you'll discover why a lot of people like the Royal Bank.

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